

THE JAZZ STYLE PRIMER

TENOR SAX.

A BLUES BASED APPROACH TO JAZZ STYLE AND IMPROVISATION

WILLIAM RANK

1. THE TONGUED CUT-OFF

In jazz music use a tongued cut-off to articulate the end of the note, giving the end of the note a rhythmic feeling.

Musical notation for exercise 1, 'THE TONGUED CUT-OFF'. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. Each staff contains two measures. The first measure of each staff has a whole note with a slur over it, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure has a quarter note with a slur over it, followed by a quarter rest. The notes are labeled 'Doo' and 'IT' respectively. The first staff starts at measure 1, the second at measure 5, and the third at measure 9. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

2. ACCENTING BEATS 2 & 4

The accent in most jazz music is on beats 2 & 4, whereas classical music generally emphasizes beats 1 & 3.

Musical notation for exercise 2, 'ACCENTING BEATS 2 & 4'. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. Each staff contains four measures. The first three measures of each staff have quarter notes on the first and third beats, and quarter notes on the second and fourth beats. The notes are labeled 'Do' and 'DAH' respectively. The fourth measure of each staff has a quarter note on the first beat, followed by a quarter rest. The notes are labeled 'Dot'. The first staff starts at measure 13, the second at measure 17, and the third at measure 21. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Many quarter notes are played short in jazz. Short un-accented notes are Dit and short accented notes are Dot.

3. DIT AND DOT

25 DIT DIT DIT DOT DIT DIT DIT DIT DIT

29 DIT DIT DIT DOT DIT DIT DIT DIT DIT

33 DIT DOT DIT DIT DOT DIT DIT DIT DIT DIT

4. DO DAH DIT DOT

37 Do Do Do DAH Do DAH DIT DIT DIT DOT DIT

41 Do Do Do DAH Do DAH DIT DIT DIT DOT DIT

45 Do Do Do DAH Do DAH DIT DIT DIT DOT DIT

Swing has an underlying triplet feel. Put a slight accent on the last third of the beat.

5. TRIPLET FEEL

49

Do Do Da Do Do Da Do Do Da Do Do Da Do Do Da Do Do Da Do Do Da Dot

In measures 1 & 2, the first two triplets are tied together to make a quarter note triplet. The rhythm is consistent throughout the entire exercise. Generally this is written as eighth notes, with the last third of the beat slightly accented.

6. EIGHTH NOTES

51

Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot Do-Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot

55

Do-Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot Do-Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot

59

Do-Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot Do-Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Do Da Dot

7. QUARTERS AND EIGHTHS

63

DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot

67

DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot

71

DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot DIT Dot DIT Do Da Do Da Dot

10. MOVING AROUND

99 C7
DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO

103 F7 C7
DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO

107 G7 C7
DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DIT DDT DO DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO

11. SWINGING FREE

111 C7
DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO

115 F7 C7
DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO

119 G7 C7
DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO DO DA OO DA OOO DDT DO DA OO DA OOO

12. BEFORE THIRTEEN

125 Do DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000 Do DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

127 Do DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000 Do DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

131 Do Do DA oo DAH Do Do DA oo DAH Do DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

Entering on the And of the beat is a little confusing.
If you have a rest on the downbeat, think "n".

13. AND OF ONE

135 (N) DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000 (N) DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

137 (N) DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000 (N) DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

139 Do Do DA oo DAH Do Do DA oo DAH (N) DA oo DA 000 Dot Do DA oo DA 000

14. QUARTER TIL ONE

147 Dot Do DA oo DA oo Dot Doot Dot Do Do DA oo Dot Doot Dot

152 Do DA oo DA oo Dot Doot Dot Do Do DA oo Dot Doot Dot

156 Do DA oo DA oo Do DA oo DA oo Do Do DA oo Dot Doot Dot

To create syncopation, one method that jazzers tend to use is anticipation. Keep the "doo-dle-da" triplet feel in your head to be sure that you don't rush the anticipation.

15. SYNCOPATION BY ANTICIPATION

160 Doo Doo Doo DA ___ Doo Doo Doo DA ___

164 Doo Doo Doo DA ___ Doo Doo Doo DA ___

168 Doo DA ___ Doo DA ___ Doo Doo Doo DA ___

Another method of syncopation is to delay an entrance. This is usually accomplished by adding a rest on the downbeat.

16. SYNCOPATION BY DELAY

172 C7
Doo Doo (N) DA Doo Doo Doo (N) DA Doo

176 F7 C7
Doo Doo (N) DA Doo Doo Doo (N) DA Doo

180 G7 F7 C7
(N) DA Doo (N) DA Doo Doo Doo (N) DA Doo

17. REPETITIVE SYNCOPATION

184 C7
Doo Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH

188 F7 C7
Doo Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH

192 G7 F7 C7
Doo Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH Doo Doo DAH

18. PICK-UP GAME

Musical score for 'Pick-Up Game' in 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music with lyrics below. The first staff starts at measure 196 and ends at measure 200. The second staff starts at measure 201 and ends at measure 204. The third staff starts at measure 205 and ends at measure 208. Chord symbols C7, F7, and G7 are placed above the notes. Syllables 'DA' and 'DAH' are written below the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with '-3'.

196
 DA OO DA OO DAH DA OO DA OO DAH DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DAH T DA

201
 OO DA OO DAH DA OO DA OO DAH DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DAH T DA

205
 OT DAH DA OT DAH DA OO DA OO DA OO DA OO DAH T DA

Apply ALL the style rules covered so far.
 Write in your syllables, Sing and Play!

19. GREEN LIGHT GO!

Musical score for 'Green Light Go!' in 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 209 and ends at measure 212. The second staff starts at measure 214 and ends at measure 217. The third staff starts at measure 218 and ends at measure 221. Chord symbols C7, F7, and G7 are placed above the notes. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and accents.

209

214

218